

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 PA-01 ICA-11 /070 W
-----076176 110308Z /73

P 110256Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 1086
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: SCC MEETING

1. EMBASSY/COMUS/J AND GOJ EXPECT SHORTLY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE COOPERATION (SDC). AS SOON AS AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN SDC, NEXT STEP WILL BE SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SCC) APPROVAL. JOINT PLANNING COULD BEGIN IN EARNEST FOLLOWING SCC SESSION.

2. MOFA AUGUST 31 PROVIDED US WITH DRAFT OF: 1) REVISED LANGUAGE FOR SDC GUIDELINES TO COVER ARTICLE VI (PHASE II) CONTINGENCIES; 2) SDC REPORT TO SCC; AND 3) THAT PORTION OF SCC PRESS RELEASE WHICH WOULD COVER SDC. WITH SOME MINOR REVISIONS, THESE TEXTS, WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT SEPTEL, SEEM SATISFACTORY. (MOFA HAS ALSO INDICATED IT IS CONSULTING WITH JDA IN REGARD TO CHANGES IT INDICATED IT MIGHT SUGGEST TO ARTICLE V LANGUAGE PROVISIONALLY ACCEPTED AT SDC VII, BUT SAID THESE WOULD BE MINOR AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NON-SUBSTANTIVE.) IT NOW SEEMS FAIR TO ASSUME PIECES WILL FALL IN PLACE IN TIME TO PERMIT SDC MEETING IN LATE OCTOBER AFTER THE DIET HAS RECESSED.

3. PROBLEM NOW APPEARS TO BE TIMING OF SCC SESSION. GOJ IS RELUCTANT TO HOLD SCC DURING PERIOD FROM NOW TO MID-NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION (WHICH

WILL DEAL INTER ALIA WITH COST-SHARING MEASURES), TENG HSAIO PING VISIT, ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD AND SECDEF VISIT. FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA WILL BE OUT OF COUNTRY NOVEMBER 18-28 AND LIKELY CABINET RESHUFFLING AND OTHER DOMESTIC POLITICAL FALLOUT FROM LDP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION MAKE GOJ VERY WARY OF DECEMBER PERIOD. IF MEETING NOT HELD THIS YEAR, MOFA TELLS US, IT COULD RESULT IN POSTPONEMENT UNTIL PASSAGE OF BUDGET LATE IN SPRING OF 1979.

4. GIVEN FOREGOING, GOJ TELLS US THAT NOV. 29 OR 30 SEEM TO BE ONLY SATISFACTORY DATES. WE HAVE EXPLORED ALTERNATE DATES (LATE OCTOBER, EARLY NOVEMBER, MID-NOVEMBER) BUT THESE WERE NOT FEASIBLE BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS ON BOTH US AND GOJ SIDES.

5. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT DATES PROPOSED MAY NOT BE CONVENIENT TO ALL PARTICIPANTS; HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF LONG DELAY IN OBTAINING SDC GUIDELINES AND PRESSING NEED TO GET JOINT PLANNING UNDERWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF NOV. 29 OR 30 FOR SCC SESSION. INASMUCH AS PRIMARY RATIONALE FOR DEVELOPING SDC IS TO OBTAIN JAPANESE POLITICAL SANCTION FOR MOVING AHEAD WITH MILITARY COOPERATION, IT MAKES SENSE IN OUR MIND TO PAY CLOSE HEED TO MOFA'S ADVICE ON SCC TIMING. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT CINCPAC AND WASHINGTON ADDRESSEES AGREE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DATES PROPOSED.

6. MOFA ALSO NOTED DURING DISCUSSIONS THAT GOJ HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY FORMAL NOTIFICATION RE DATES OF SECDEF VISIT. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT NOVEMBER 9 AND 10 ARE CONTEMPLATED, BUT IN VIEW OF NEED TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF KEY PEOPLE AND TO BEGIN PLANNING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE AUTHORITY TO CONFIRM DATES WITH GOJ AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO16309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780978/aaaacmrv.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 40eb5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1474245
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCC MEETING
TAGS: MARR, JA
To: WASHDC SECSTATE WASHDC MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40eb5b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014